

Vassilios hails Bush's efforts

ATHENS (AP) — President George Bush raised hopes for the re-unification of war-divided Cyprus. In a reply to a Monday message from Mr. Bush, Mr. Vassilios said that U.S. involvement will be vital in resolving differences before a Bush-proposed meeting in September. But September was "too early." Said a Turkish Cypriot official in Istanbul after a conference with Turkish Premier Mesut Yilmaz. "I don't think necessary preparations can be completed by then," added Kenan Atakol, the foreign and defence minister of the breakaway Turkish Cypriot state in Turkey-occupied north Cyprus. Mr. Bush announced in Washington last Friday that Turkey and Greece had agreed to meet in the United States in September to try to settle the Cyprus problem. The participation level of the Greek and Turkish Cypriot sides has yet to be settled. The Turkish side demands equal status for the breakaway state to that of the internationally recognized Cyprus government of Mr. Vassilios, the Greek Cypriot leader.



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King's interview to be broadcast today

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan Television Wednesday broadcasts a special interview with His Majesty King Hussein, during which he will talk about the latest developments in the region. The interview, which will be broadcast on Channel Two, is conducted by Rami Khouri, presenter of the weekly "Encounter" programme.

PLO teams visit Cairo, Amman

TUNIS (R) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) sent a high-level delegation to Cairo Tuesday to consult with Egypt on preparations for a Middle East peace conference, an official PLO source said. A similar delegation will leave for Amman Wednesday, he added. Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen), a member of the PLO's executive committee, and Hakan Balawi, a leading member of the mainstream Fatah movement, were in the delegation to Egypt.

OIC calls on Iraq to disarm, pay damages

ISTANBUL (AP) — Ministers and officials from 45-member Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) Tuesday urged Iraq to speed up the release of Kuwaiti prisoners, pay Gulf war compensation and eliminate its weapons of mass destruction. The demands were contained in a draft resolution endorsed by the political committee to the 20th Islamic foreign ministers conference, which will be presented for approval to the preliminary meeting of the foreign ministers Thursday. The draft resolution said "the Iraqi government has not fully complied with and fulfilled its obligations in accordance with the U.N. Security Council resolutions." (see related story on page 2)

Moscow warns West over Yugoslavia

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union warned the West Tuesday against military involvement in Yugoslavia, saying it would lead to a conflict embracing all of Europe. A government statement carried by the official TASS news agency said a thin line separated off friendly assistance and unacceptable interference in the internal affairs of another nation. "To us, it is — whether unwillingly or not — because of egoistic temptations on one side in the conflict real would mean to come into conflict automatically with others, inside and outside Yugoslavia," it said.

Algerian elections possible in November

ALGIERS (AP) — Legislative elections postponed in June due to a bloody crackdown on Islamic fundamentalists will be held in November, a prominent opposition leader cited President Chadli Benjedid as saying Tuesday. Benjedid, leader of the moderate Socialist Forces Front party, said after an audience with Mr. Benjedid that the president indicated he would set an exact election date by early September. Mr. Benjedid postponed the elections, scheduled for June 27. He then declared a state of emergency June 5 to halt violent confrontation by the fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front (FIS).

Qatari vessel isolated Bahraini waters

DOHA (AP) — A Qatari naval vessel on Aug. 3 violated Bahraini territorial waters and was chased away by coast guard control boats. Arab diplomatic sources reported Tuesday. They said the Qatari vessel entered the Bahraini's eastern waters without permission prior clearance from Bahraini authorities. Bahrain's coast guard units arrested the vessel and escorted it until it reached the Dibat reefs, said the diplomat. In Bahrain, official sources said the vessel by telephone refused to comment on the incident. But they did not deny it. The incident occurred amid mounting tension between the two central Gulf states over their disputed border.

King says peace process gaining momentum, hopes hurdles will be overcome

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein, saying the Middle East peace effort was gaining momentum, expressed hope Tuesday that an agreement could be worked out on who would attend a peace conference.

"I've never seen more determination and I've never seen more of a sense of realisation that this is the last chance and there is a lot of soul-searching going on everywhere," the King said in an interview on ABC Television.

Israel has agreed to attend a peace conference but has insisted it should exclude the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Palestinians living in Arab East Jerusalem.

On Sunday, an aide to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat said the Palestinians were ready to attend a peace conference and that no obstacle was big enough to prevent this. A PLO spokesman dissociated the organisation from that position on Monday.

King Hussein said he had not yet heard from the Palestinians on this question but made clear they should be allowed to decide on their own who of their number should represent them.

"I believe the general consensus is that only the Palestinians can select their delegation and that is what essentially will happen," he said.

510 jobless expatriates arrive from Kuwait

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter with agency dispatches

AMMAN — The first group of Jordanians and Palestinians whose employment contracts were not renewed by their Kuwaiti employers arrived here Tuesday, and reports said that 3,000 such expatriates were scheduled to return home by mid-August.

The group of 340 people landed here aboard two privately chartered Egyptian airliners, and another plane with 170 passengers was expected late Tuesday, according to the Associated Press.

Sources quoted by the AP in Amman said Jordanian and Palestinian expatriates in Kuwait had chartered 14 Egyptian planes to fly 3,000 people

to Amman by Aug. 13.

It was not immediately known how many of those arriving Tuesday were West Bank residents carrying temporary Jordanian passports.

Expatriate sources said most of the repatriates had been waiting for Kuwaiti banks to lift restrictions on withdrawals from their own accounts or for their employers to pay compensation and service termination benefits.

Noting that Kuwaiti banks have lifted all restrictions on withdrawals and transfers on Aug. 2, an expatriate source told the Jordan Times that the charters were arranged in advance in anticipation of the Kuwaiti banks move, which was announced by the Kuwaiti central bank in June.

"Most of the expatriates have closed their accounts and

withdrew all their money," said the source, preferring anonymity. "The lifting of controls also cleared the way for employers to withdraw money to settle their dues to employees," he noted.

"Some of the employers have not settled their dues, and in such cases the expatriates have left behind power of attorney with friends and relatives authorising them to collect the dues on their behalf."

Many of the expected arrivals lived through the seven-month Iraqi occupation of Kuwait which ended in late February "because they had nothing else but their savings in the bank accounts and expectations of severance pay from employers," noted the source, preferring anonymity.

According to the source, "the Kuwaiti government's

policy of hiring non-Kuwaitis only when Kuwaitis could not be found for the required job has affected not only Jordanians or Palestinians but all expatriates" in the emirate.

Official sources said late last month that Jordan had received definite indications that there would not be any mass expulsion of Jordanians or Palestinians from Kuwait.

Official figures indicate that about 270,000 expatriates have returned home since the Gulf crisis erupted with the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait on Aug. 20. Officials also estimate that about 170,000 Jordanian passport holders remain in Kuwait.

The expatriate source said thousands of Palestinians holding Syrian, Lebanese and Egyptian documents were also scheduled to fly out of Kuwait this month.

Israel outlines basis for accepting talks

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — The United States has agreed the Soviet Union should renew full diplomatic relations with Israel before the start of a Middle East peace conference, Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy said Tuesday.

The U.S. agreed that the Soviet Union must re-establish diplomatic relations with Israel before the opening session of the conference," Mr. Levy told a parliamentary committee.

Mr. Levy told the committee there was no agreement yet on the composition of the Palestinian delegation to the talks or on the framework for the proposed peace talks, participants said.

They said Levy told them the other points were:

— Israel is not obliged to accept the principle of exchanging land for peace. U.N. Resolution 242 enshrining this principle has no one meaning accepted by all;

— The Bush administration will not allow a parallel peace process in the United Nations Security Council;

— The U.N. observer will be silent and will be a personal representative of the U.N. secretary general;

— A European representative will attend the opening session of the conference;

— The conference will have no power to make decisions and will not be used as a forum for appeal or discussion;

— Negotiations will be direct and without preconditions and

aimed at a peace treaty;

— The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) will not be a partner to the process and a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation will represent the Palestinians.

Mr. Levy said the understandings were the basis for Israel's conditional assent to the peace talks.

"Could we have said no to the convening of such a conference even after we received all that we asked for?" he said.

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They said Levy told them the other points were:

— Israel endorsed the conference provided Palestinians from Arab East Jerusalem and the PLO were barred from the negotiations;

— Mr. Levy said Israel stood by its demands.

"I repeat that the PLO will not be a partner in the negotiations ... if I am told that all the Arabs in the (Israeli-occupied West Bank) are PLO, I will not accept that either," he said.

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Baker ready to make seventh Middle East peace shuttle

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Secretary of State James Baker could make a seventh trip to the Middle East next month to press the case for an Arab-Israeli peace conference, a senior U.S. official said.

"There are no plans firmied up to take a trip to the region but if something looked productive in September we would obviously give it the very fullest consideration," said the official, who asked not to be named.

He sought their participation as observers at the conference and asked them to urge Palestinians to take part.

The official declined to say what

Algerian, Moroccan and Tunisian leaders told Mr. Baker about the position of the Palestine Liberation

support for the peace conference.

Mr. Baker was due to report on his mission to President George Bush at the White House Tuesday.

After winning Israel's qualified commitment to attend a conference, Mr. Baker visited three of the Maghreb countries — Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia.

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Algerian, Moroccan and Tunisian leaders told Mr. Baker about the position of the Palestine Liberation

Organisation (PLO) towards the conference proposal.

"I think there's not necessarily a uniform view on the part of these three countries," said the official.

Mr. Baker, who goes on holiday this week for the rest of the month, believes Palestinians in the occupied territories would be amenable to a compromise that would allow them to join the planned October peace conference.

U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said Monday he was encouraged by the developments over the weekend indicating progress towards convening a Middle East peace conference.

(Continued on page 5)

Arafat appeals to Europe to protect Palestinian rights

TUNIS (Agencies) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat appealed to European leaders Tuesday to save the Palestinians from "a Zionist conspiracy aimed at Jerusalem."

He urged the messages as saying.

The agency did not say which specific countries the messages were addressed.

Mr. Arafat, WAFA said, called on Europe to "exercise the role it has always effectively played in the elaboration of the principles of international legality and the U.N. resolutions."

He asked Europe "to support the Palestinian people, in these difficult moments" and "to oppose the Zionist conspiracy aimed at Jerusalem."

WAFA reported.

The comments came amid conflicting

signals about the PLO's position on U.S. plans to hold an international Middle East peace conference in October.

Israel has agreed to take part if the PLO has no role and Palestinians

from Arab East Jerusalem are excluded.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker is searching for Palestinians acceptable to Israel who could negotiate as part of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation in the conference.

Mr. Baker has given the 12-nation European Community (EC) observer status in the talks. Important EC countries, particularly France, support a full Palestinian role.

As Mr. Baker visited Tunisia last weekend to sell the conference, a political counsellor to Mr. Arafat suggested that the PLO would be ready to cut a deal on Palestinian representation.

"I don't think there will be any

(Continued on page 5)

Turks attack Kurds inside Iraq

ANKARA (Agencies) — Turkish troops and warplanes attacked Kurdish rebel bases inside northern Iraq, a government official said Tuesday.

Guerrillas of the outlawed Kurdish Labour Party, fighting to set up an independent Kurdistan in southeastern Turkey, often stage cross-border hit-and-run attacks from bases inside northern Iraq.

"The Turkish army is involved in an offensive to pacify the area," the official, speaking on condition of anonymity, told the Associated Press.

The government has not yet officially confirmed the operation. "I can neither deny nor confirm it," said Foreign Ministry spokesman Murat Sungar.

Turkish newspapers, however, reported that Premier Mesut Yilmaz gave a detailed briefing about the operation to the ruling Motherland Party's central board meeting Monday.

It was also not immediately known if the operation was still under way.

Guerrillas claiming to be Kurdish rebels also kidnapped 10 German tourists in eastern Turkey last week.

Turkish newspapers reported Tuesday that the troops went 19

kilometres into northern Iraq in the operation that began early Monday.

The latest raid marked at least the fourth time that Turkish troops have attacked Turkish rebel positions inside Iraq since 1983. The last previous acknowledged raid was in 1987 when Turkish warplanes attacked rebel positions following another cross-border attack.

However, Turkish newspapers reported last April that Turkish troops crossed the border to attack guerrilla camps that month. No details of the operation were ever announced.

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Israel sets up new settlements

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israel established a new settlement in the occupied West Bank Monday, three days after Secretary of State James Baker left with Israel's agreement to attend a Middle East peace conference, Israel Television said.

The left-wing Civil Rights Movement sharply criticised the move, calling the settlement "the Israeli government's negative answer to the American peace initiative. The government is playing a double game with a double-edged tongue — with its mouth it says yes and with its arm it says no."

"The point is the timing and the place," said party spokesman Moshe Horowitz.

Some fifteen Jewish families moved Sunday into what was formerly an army outpost called Eshkolot, south of the West Bank City of Hebron, the television said.

Dan Naveh, spokesman for Defence Minister Moshe Arens, said the government had approved turning the army post into a civilian settlement in 1983 and recently decided to allow up to 15 families to move in.

The United States has repeatedly appealed to Israel to halt construction of Jewish settlements in the occupied territories as a gesture of peace to the Arab states.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir told Mr. Baker Thursday Israel was willing to attend a Middle East peace conference once Israel's conditions on Palestinian representation are met.

The peace conference is to be held on U.N. Resolutions 242 and 338 which call on Israel to give up land occupied in the 1967 war in exchange for secure borders.

Mr. Shamir has said Israel would not cede any land for peace.

Also Monday, the defence ministry gave Hebron settlers a permit to set up nine caravans at an army post in the city, Israel Radio said.

The army post, set up in 1983 on the site of Hebron hut station after a Jew was stabbed in the city, was "the only alternative place we found suitable to let them stay," Mr. Naveh said.

Aaron Domb, one of the leaders of Jewish settlers in Hebron, said he hoped that the settlers would be allowed to build at the army outpost.

Asked whether Israel did not worry about negative reaction from Arab states with which it hoped to negotiate, Mr. Naveh said: "There is no change in Israeli policy on this issue. There is no change in the Israeli policy of settlement."

Some 100,000 Jews now live in

heavily-fortified enclaves among Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza.

Mr. Shamir's government is spending millions of dollars on roads to enable Jewish settlers to bypass the towns, villages and refugee camps of Palestinians who launched their uprising against Israeli rule more than two and a half years ago.

The non-partisan Israeli Peace Now movement accused the government of making it more difficult for Palestinians, who have called for a freeze in settlement activity, to agree to take part in the proposed peace conference.

The question of who will represent Palestinians at the conference remains the main stumbling block.

"All settlement activity now is meant to make it difficult for the Palestinians to give a positive answer to the United States and strengthen right-wing extremists..." Peace Now said in a statement read to Reuters.

Mr. Baker, who has lined up the support of Arab states for a peace conference with Israel in October, wound up a marathon Middle East tour Monday saying he was very hopeful of an "outbreak of peace" in the region.

The West Bank settlement was inaugurated as Israel Television reported that two U.S. State Department officials would arrive Tuesday to discuss details of a

proposed peace conference.

The United States, Israel's main ally, has repeatedly said that Jewish settlement in the occupied territories is a major obstacle to peace. Mr. Baker was greeted by new settlements on several visits to Israel during his recent peace missions.

Israeli left-wingers and peace activists accused Prime Minister Shamir of risking chances of the first Arab-Israeli conference in the Jewish state's 43-year-old existence.

"If the road to the negotiating table is blocked, it is the Israeli government's fault," said Yossi Sarid of the Citizens' Rights Movement.

The new settlement is in practice the negative answer to the peace initiative of the U.S. administration. Officially, the reply is "yes," but in practice in the occupied territories the answer is "no." This is typical double language of the Israeli government," he told Reuters.

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While Mr. Shamir has given a qualified "yes" to Mr. Baker's proposals for a U.S.-Soviet sponsored conference he has sworn never to leave Arab lands.

Freij pledges 'credible' delegation

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordanian officials and businessmen are hopeful that the crippling "interdictions" of vessels headed for Aqaba would be eased soon, particularly after the issue was repeatedly raised with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker during his recent Middle East peace shuttle.

Mr. Freij, longtime mayor of the West Bank town known as the birthplace of Christ, said: "There will be a peace conference and the Palestinians will be in the room to negotiate."

Mr. Freij met for 35 minutes with Brent Scowcroft, the President George Bush's national security adviser, and Chief of Staff John Sununu. Mr. Freij said he urged the White House officials to use "all the vigor and influence they have" to bring the peace conference about.

"I am convinced that they are determined," he told reporters afterwards.

He said Israel should have no say in who the Palestinians send to the table. But Mr. Freij said flatly, "they will be a credible delegation" to the peace conference.

The Israelis are very difficult. They have been saying they will not give one inch of land and they will not withdraw from here or there," he said. But he added that in politics, "never ... is never."

"There is hope, but to have peace you have to have two partners. The Arab partner, the Arab side, the Palestinian side, is ready to make peace with Israel," said Mr. Freij, who said he would like to see "a Middle East common market" uniting the Arab states and Israel in commerce.

It was bad enough during the Gulf crisis — which developed into a devastating war in January leading to the end of the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait in February — but "now the situation has

turned worse with new regulations for the enforcement of the blockade," said the shipping source.

One of the practices adopted by most regular shipping lines as standard procedure now is to designate Aqaba as the last port of discharge — thus making it easier for on-board inspection of cargo and shipping documents.

Ships which cannot adopt this practice have to ensure that all Aqaba-bound cargo is placed aboard in a manner which facilitates easy access for random checking by the enforcers.

"These practices had largely alleviated the problem until a new regulation was enforced," said the shipping source, speaking on condition of anonymity. The enforcers — mostly American officers aboard frigates — now refuse Aqaba-bound cargo if the consignee's name includes the terms "and Sons" and "Partners" or "Trading Agencies."

Businessmen theorised that the new enforcement regulations appear to have stemmed from a belief that companies with such names could include non-Jordanians — Iraqis to be precise — and the shipments could be sent to Iraq from Aqaba.

In addition, the naval inspectors are also insisting that the shipping documents include the street address of the consignee, said the shipping source.

"It is a well-known fact that for decades we do not have street addresses" for postal purposes, said another shipping official. "Everyone has a post box address, but this is not accepted by the inspectors in the Red Sea," he said.

The Shipping Agents Association of Jordan has notified all concerned parties — banks, the chambers of commerce and the chambers of industry, as well as clearing agents — to ensure that

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Arab children's congress starts

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor today inaugurates this year's children's congress in which participants from Jordan and five other Arab countries will take part.

The congress, sponsored by the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF), was initiated in 1980 after the Amman Arab summit conference. It is aimed at bringing together talented children from around the Arab World.

The week-long congress includes a seminar on the protection of the environment and visits by children to various cultural and touristic sites in the Kingdom.

Apart from Jordan, the participating children this year came from Algeria, Sudan, Iraq, Palestine and Tunisia.

State universities to accept 10,375 students

AMMAN (J.T.) — The four Jordanian government-controlled universities will this year accept 10,375 undergraduate students and 2,479 post-graduate students in the coming 1991-92 academic year, according to an announcement here Monday evening by the Council of Higher Education chaired by Minister of Higher Education Mohammad Al Hammouri.

Accordingly, the University of Jordan will admit 3,920 undergraduate students, Yarmouk University 3,750, Mutu 1,420 and the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) 965.

The minister said all those to be accepted in the universities should have an average grade, in their tawjih results, of 65 per cent and above. He said that those with 60 per cent and above can be accepted by the private universities.

The minister said that nearly 70 per cent of secondary school graduates are being accepted in the four universities. He also said that those accepted in the scientific faculties have passed the

tawjih examination with an average grade of not less than 80 per cent.

Dr. Hammouri said that due to the Gulf crisis and the return to Jordan of thousands of expatriates, the four universities had to accept 700 expatriate students.

The minister said that the private universities in Jordan as well as the community colleges can admit the majority of the remaining students whose average grades permit them to enrol, in accordance with the council's regulations.

The council, according to Dr. Hammouri, has now decided to introduce new specialisations in the four universities to meet the needs of the local labour market. It also endorsed a set of principles to govern the functioning of Jordanian community colleges in the coming academic year.

The council has approved the appointment of Dr. Bassam Abu Ghazaleh as president of the newly established Applied Science University and gave its consent to the establishment of a "technological university college" in Jordan.

Fate of UNESCO employees still unknown

By Maha Addasi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) employees based in Jordan are deeply concerned and apprehensive over their future three weeks after being told that their offices will be moved back to Beirut now that the situation in Lebanon has started to settle.

Talking to the Jordan Times, the employees said that nothing had been done to alleviate their anxieties regarding their jobs.

"We have not been approached yet with renewed contracts," said one employee who has been working with UNESCO since its offices were moved to Jordan six years ago.

The employees feel that they may never find a job considering the difficult economic situation the country is facing.

"Where will I find work at this time," said an employee who explained that he was in dire need of his monthly income to keep his family. "There is no chance for me to go to Beirut when the office is moved towards the end of the year. Besides, I was not even informed about getting a job with UNESCO if I move to Beirut."

An official at UNESCO who preferred anonymity said that when the move was made from Beirut to Amman many employees from the Beirut office came to work in Amman's office. "Although we knew when we moved that the move to Amman was only temporary and only due to the war situation in Beirut, many of our employees who opted to move to Amman were allowed to do so," he said.

The decision taken by UNESCO Director General Federico Mayor on July 6, stating that the regional office for UNESCO in Beirut should be in full operation by April

1992, has started an avalanche of questions being posed by employees of other United Nations offices who feel that they may be losing their jobs too as their offices were also moved to Amman on a temporary basis.

An employee at United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), who declined to mention her name, said that when she heard of the decision of moving UNESCO offices back to Beirut she started to ask key personnel at UNICEF whether UNICEF offices will also move back to Beirut because they were moved out of Beirut for the same security reasons as UNESCO. "I was assured that no such move will be made by UNICEF," she said.

UNICEF Regional Representative Nigel Fischer said that UNICEF's move to Amman was permanent. "There have been no plans nor discussions about moving the UNICEF offices from Amman," Mr. Fischer said. "A decision by one United Nations-related office does not affect another as each office is independent."

One United Nations office has different plans. United Nations Economic and Social Committee of Western Asia (ESCWA), which had its regional office in Baghdad, moved its staff to Amman at the outbreak of the Gulf crisis in August 1990.

According to informed sources, the ESCWA staff will be moving out of Amman.

ESCWA's main headquarters are in Baghdad. When the Gulf crisis evolved the staff were asked to repatriate from Baghdad and regroup in Amman. Now it is up to the member states to decide whether ESCWA offices will go back to Baghdad. What we know is that ESCWA will only be staying in Amman until August 1992, Fouad Bseiso, chief of Programme Planning and Technical Cooperation Office for ESCWA said.

WHAT'S GOING ON

AL FUHEIS CULTURAL FESTIVAL

★ Concert by Jordanian singers Tawfiq Al Nimeri and Sakir Hattar at the festival's site in Al Fuheis city — 6:30 p.m.

★ Poetry recital by Jordanian poet Majid Al Majali at the festival's site — 7:45 p.m.



Jordan Company for Television, Radio and Cinema production Director General Jawad Maraga Tuesday signs technical and programme cooperation agreement with Sudanese National Centre for Population Communication, Development Information and Technical Production Director General Hassan Saaduddin (Petra photo)

Jordan, Sudan sign cooperation agreements

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan Company for Television, Radio and Cinema Production and the Sudanese Information Ministry Tuesday signed two technical agreements on technical and programme cooperation.

Under the first agreement, the company will supply the Sudanese television with its television production and will train three Sudanese television person-

nel every year. The company will also produce episodes of the Sudanese series on Islamic art and archaeology, as well as episodes on Sudan's history.

Under the second agreement, concluded with the Sudanese National Centre for Population Communication, Development Information and Technical Production, the company will provide technical and production ex-

pertise for the centre and will cooperate with it in producing technical and art programmes. It will also train technical cadres from the centre.

The agreement was signed for the company by its Director General Jawad Maraga, while for the Sudanese Information Ministry it was signed by Hassan Saaduddin, director general of the centre.

Arab countries meet in Tunis to discuss plight of Palestinians

TUNIS (J.T.) — Jordan is taking part in a week-long Arab countries' meeting in Tunis that tackles the affairs of Palestinian refugees.

Dr. Ahmad Qatanani, an advisor at the prime minister's office, accompanied by two senior officials from the Foreign Ministry's Department for Palestinian Affairs, is attending the meetings along with delegates from Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Palestine and the Arab League's Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation.

The meeting is reviewing the implementation of previous decisions taken by Arab countries concerning the Palestine question. Israel's Judaisation programme in the occupied Arab territories, social and economic conditions of Palestinians under Israeli rule, Jewish immigration in Palestine and Israel's plans to steal water from Arab countries, according to conference sources.

Addressing the opening session was Dr. Mohammad Al Farra, the Arab League assistant secretary general, who said that the world should create an opportunity to help the American peace initiative succeed.

The U.N. Security Council should issue a resolution calling for an end to Israel's repressive measures and an immediate halt to Israel's settlement programmes in the occupied Arab lands," Dr. Farra said.

Referring to the situation in the Israeli-held Arab lands, Dr. Farra said the living conditions of Palestinians under Israeli rule were deteriorating and the U.N. should take immediate action to stop the Palestinian people's sufferings, imprisonment, starvation and other forms of Israeli repression.

Farmers dump excess milk as the local market and daily processing industries cannot absorb it (file photo)

Milk problem spills over

By Elia Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A special committee set up by the government to examine the problem of surplus milk and the question of organising the absorption of fresh milk by the local dairy processing industries is studying the situation, but no results have been revealed, according to a senior Agriculture Ministry official.

Dr. Ghassan Al Asali, the ministry's assistant secretary general, told the Jordan Times it was not true that the committee had decided to ban the importation of milk cows pending the outcome of the study as reported by the local press. He described another press report about the dumping of 22 tonnes of fresh milk Monday as an exaggeration.

Dr. Al Asali said that the committee has discussed the question of banning the importation of "Halibuna" brand of dried milk to help the local farmers market their fresh milk. The committee also discussed the prospect of setting up a processing plant to produce dried powdered

milk. But Mr. Ibrahim said that this was not feasible because the country's farms can not produce enough quantities of fresh milk to meet the factory's needs. Such a project would require hundreds of tonnes of fresh milk on a daily basis, he added.

The former Agriculture Minister Mohammad Al Alawneb had tackled the problem and had suggested that ice cream factories purchase up to 20 tonnes of fresh milk daily and that the processing plants produce cheese under licence from Denmark and sell the product in the local and Arab markets.

Mr. Ibrahim said that the local farms did not produce more than 40 per cent of the country's needs of milk. He said his ministry had issued licences for the importation of 4,000 heads of cattle, but the country was in need of 14,000 more to meet all the needs of the consumers and the factories.

Recent reports said that the Association of Cattle Breeders had been dumping a great deal of milk because they said that the local dairy processing plants could not absorb these extra quantities.

Chamber of Industry office opens in Sahab

Government keen on promoting the industrial sector — minister

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Ali Abu Ragheb Tuesday stressed the government's keenness on promoting the industrial sector so that can help stimulate the national economy.

In an address at the official inauguration of an office for the Amman Chamber of Industry in Sahab industrial city, the minister referred to a set of measures taken by the Ministry of Industry and said they aimed at overcoming the current challenges facing the national economy.

The government, he said, is about to issue a set of laws designed to give further encouragement to investments, boost exports and open new markets abroad.

Mr. Abu Ragheb lauded the efforts of the Amman Chamber

step to increase facilities and services to the Jordanian industrialists and to save them effort and time in conducting procedures involved in the industrial sector.

Mr. Abu Hassan announced that the chamber planned to open similar offices in other industrial complexes to serve the same purpose.

The chamber has created a special unit to promote exports and to explore foreign markets and in 1992 a special ceremony will be held under the patronage of His Majesty King Hussein to honour those industrialists excelling in exports," Mr. Abu Hassan said.

The ceremony was attended by the chamber's board members and leading Jordanian industrialists and officials.

Indian import from Jordan to reach \$200m this year

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Despite a crunch in foreign exchange, India's imports from Jordan are expected to be in the range of \$190 million to \$200 million during 1991. New Delhi has set a target of \$40 million to \$50 million of exports to the Kingdom this year.

India's imports of Jordanian products — phosphates, potash and related fertilizers — rose to a record \$193 million during 1990 while the Kingdom's imports from India totalled \$33 million for the year.

Faced with dwindling foreign exchange reserves as a result of India's imports of phosphates," he told the Jordan Times.

India is the biggest purchaser of Jordanian phosphates and potash. Concerted Indian efforts over the years have managed to boost Indian exports to Jordan to the \$33 million registered last year, compared with \$4 million in 1985.

Jordan and India this week signed an agreement under which the Kingdom will buy 100,000 tonnes of Indian wheat for \$11.8 million. Deliveries will be made before November, and fresh deals could be explored by October, said B.P. Parra, resident representative of India's Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation.

Normally Amman is visited by a large number of expatriates who spend their holidays here during the summer. This year thousands of Iraqis came to Amman after the Iraqi government lifted a ban on travel abroad.

According to Engineer Ahmad Rejoub, director of WAJ in the Madaba district, the Water Authority has started pumping water to the Madaba district from the Qastal region.

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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

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Vague and undefined concerns

THE OUTLINE of the press and publication law, currently being drafted in final shape by the Cabinet, is being perceived by many journalists as a disappointment. Apart from one achievement, namely the abolition of the article that gave the prime minister the authority to close down any publication, the new draft law is full of restrictions and articles that limit both the right of the individual for free expression and curtails the right of the press for genuine and free discourse. Constitutionally, Jordanians are free to express themselves in words, writing and drawing "within the limits of the law." Although the Constitution did specify the "limits of the law," it is believed that our fathers who wrote the Constitution did not envisage such a load of restricting articles in the law. Perhaps one of the most forbidding is article (30-a), which stipulates that a daily newspaper should have a capital of JD 100,000, that it publishes at least 12 daily pages and employs a specified number of staff. Nothing justifies such a load of conditions except a desire in the heart of the legislators to limit the number of periodicals and make monitoring easier.

Another controversial point that many journalists feel is encroaching on one of their basic freedoms in the requirement that journalists should be registered with the Jordanian Press Association. It is certainly one thing to guarantee journalists or any other workers the right to associate, but surely something else to force them to join a body that they might not wish to join. This is in the Constitution's spirit. Journalists, especially those who do not wish to join the association, are outraged.

One would have hoped that with the new age of democracy, the lawmakers would strive to guarantee people's basic rights, foremost among which is freedom of expression and freedom of association. Neither of the two are furthered by the new proposed bill. We are not saying that the new bill is not an improvement over the old one, but we believe that people's and the individual's right to free expression is a sacred right that should not be burdened by a restrictive 45-page press and publication law. Laws should always aim at safeguarding the rights of the people, not some vague, undefined concerns of the state.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Ra'i daily Tuesday launched a bitter attack on the Islamic foreign ministers gathered in Istanbul for paving the ground for a new U.S.-led aggression on Iraq. The foreign ministers refused to place on the agenda the question of lifting an embargo on the Iraqi people, imposed by the aggressive forces of the Western alliance; and before the meeting all Arab and Islamic countries had chosen to refrain from doing anything that might end the plight of the Iraqi people or discuss the Western threats to Iraq, the paper noted. We do not know yet the type of falsified final communiqué which these foreign ministers will come up with at the end of their meetings and what kind of Islamic character such communiqué would have, the paper continued. But it said it has become clear to us that James Baker has made himself foreign minister of all Arab states and all the Islamic countries and nothing can be done without his approval. The paper said that Mr. Baker and his president have decided to starve the Iraqi people for their defiance of threat and for their decision to refuse bribes that bought other Arab and Muslim regimes. It said by rejecting the Iraqi bid for an end to the embargo and by refusing an Iraqi overture for reconciliation, the Islamic countries have paved the way for the Western alliance to launch their aggression anew on the Iraqi people. Before the meeting, the Arab League secretary-general did nothing with regard to an Iraqi request for an Arab League meeting to consider the Western threats posed to Iraq, the paper added. It said that the Arab League and the Islamic countries had harboured premeditated plans to pave the ground for another round of U.S.-led aggression on the Arab and Muslim country of Iraq.

A guest columnist in Al Ra'i daily discussed the question of congestion in Amman due to the growth of population on the one hand and the concentration of various economic and industrial projects in the capital's area. Hamdullah Al Nabulsi noted that the return to Jordan from the Gulf region of nearly one quarter million people has been largely responsible for the sudden growth of population in the capital Amman, exactly as had happened to the city following the 1948 and 1967 Arab-Israeli wars when huge numbers of people settled in the city. The writer criticised concerned government departments for preparing regional studies designed to establish economic and industrial projects outside Amman but failed to carry out the recommendations taken by the numerous seminars that approved those studies. He said that absence of major projects in the rural regions has forced the majority of the returnees and the refugees to head for Amman. The capital is now overburdened with its people and this is adversely reflected in the poor services, in the traffic congestions and the insufficient water and other basic supplies, the writer noted. These problems, he said, are bound to create for Jordan in general and the capital in particular numerous economic and social problems in addition to environmental issues. He urged the concerned authorities to move speedily and implement projects that would ensure the fair distribution of economic gains in all governorates to secure reasonable geographical distribution of the country's population.

Economic Forum

Foreign investment policies — false fears

THE Lower House of Parliament Sunday discussed, amended and passed a legislation on foreign and Arab investment in the Kingdom. The deputies seemed to have differed with the government on certain aspects of the related draft law. I will postpone comment on the new law and the controversial points until I read its final version.

As things stand now, it is a stark contradiction that an Arab investor, whether Saudi, Palestinian, Omani, Egyptian or whatever, can own land or property in London, New York, Paris, Spain or Toronto, cannot own property in say, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia or Oman. Likewise, American and Western nationals can roam the Arab world freely without obtaining an entry visa in advance or without one at all, while Arab citizens are denied that treatment. In some cases, it is impossible for an Arab to enter any of a host of Arab countries. In some, or most, Gulf states, an aged mother is denied a visa to visit her son who works there. These are very formidable impediments to inter-Arab investment and trade, which have existed for decades and thereby predate national security "theories."

In formulating their policies towards foreign investment, some developing countries are excessively haunted by the nightmare of

being dominated, through these investments, by foreign influence. In contrast, developed countries are remarkably free from this complex. The United States has recently completely opened its markets to massive Japanese investments to the extent that the term "buy America" gained world-wide currency. But this did not spur the slightest change in American foreign investment policies.

I believe that the time has come for countries like Jordan to abandon foreign influence fears and open their economies for foreign investment, Arab and otherwise, without reservations. The world markets are practically dominated by foreign products and capital in such a way as to make obsolete the argument for defending domestic markets and economies against invading foreign investment. Under classical colonialism, the colonial powers had to rule directly other territories in order to guarantee permanent access to their markets. Now the world has developed in such a way that has guaranteed that access without the headache of ruling the colonies. And developing countries cannot escape this fate except through achieving economic progress itself. Foreign investment can contribute to this goal. There are plenty of countries which benefited from foreign investments for that purpose. Examples of foreign domination created or cataly-

sed by foreign investment are rare. The outstanding example is the banana republics and other Latin American countries in the genuine one because the American political domination is the way for American investments there, not the other way.

Probably, the saddest irony in this regard is the efforts to sacrifice some developing countries in order to attract foreign investment. As they offer generous incentives for foreigners they forget to encourage their own domestic investments, probably because they take it for granted. They should not because the greatest benefits that foreign investment yields to host countries will not make up for the losses inflicted by shortsighted income tax policies offer tax exemptions that attract foreign capital but overtax domestic investment, or deny fiscal incentives, to the extent that domestic capital is taxed above Let us hope that Jordan will not commit this sin.

This is a universally new economic era based mainly on ideas, trends and rules based in turn on liberalisation, freedom and open-mindedness. One hopes that our economic policies and attitudes will be modernised accordingly.

Negotiating what and with whom

By Clovis Maksoud

The writer is a professor at American University, Washington, D.C., and former Arab League ambassador to the United Nations.

NOW that the stage was set at the Moscow Summit to call for the long awaited peace conference, it is perhaps useful to understand how the Arabs read the Israeli negotiating position and how the Arab interpretation may affect the success of such a conference, not withstanding Israel's conditioned acceptance to attend.

Furthermore, since Israel does not consider itself to be in the occupied territories as an occupying power, it is therefore not accountable to the provisions of the Geneva Convention. However, if Israel is not an occupying power in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, the Golan Heights and East Jerusalem, what is its status? No Israeli — whether Likud or Labour — is willing to answer this question because equivo-

cated outcome of negotiations.

Herein lies the problem. The U.S. avoids a clear and direct answer because it wants to avoid colliding with Israel and its powerful friends in Congress. Besides, the U.S. administration is not always of one mind on this issue. In an attempt to avoid a direct confrontation with Israel, the U.S. is asking the Arab states to hold off on this question until the negotiations begin. Thus, the holding of a conference practically becomes an objective in and of itself. The U.S. pressed the Arabs to respond to its initiative, but when they did, Israel became more exacting in its demands, more insistent that its terms of reference prevail, and more adamant that its substantive positions remain intact. It appears that as the Arabs accommodate the U.S. initiative, the U.S. moves to accommodate Israel's obduracy.

"Israel will not negotiate whether it has a right to exist, nor by the same token should the Palestinians be expected to negotiate whether or not they have a right to national self-determination. If these and similar premises are not assumed, the whole process of negotiations will be the trap which ratifies Israel's practical annexation of most if not all the occupied territories."

ing in this respect buys it time for consolidating its claim and presenting the world with new facts. And while public opinion polls indicate that perhaps as much as 50 per cent of the Israeli population is willing to accept the "land for peace" formula, no organisation is willing to state which land — whether all or part.

In addition, the Sharon government maintains that it is flexible, while sugar-coating its systematic policy of creeping annexation with a veneer of palatable "reasonableness." Hence, while Israel insists that there should be no preconditions to negotiations when they do take place — a reasonable position — it insures that prior to the start of negotiations its own preconditions have not only been accepted but have become an irrevocable and integral part of the process.

First, Israel rejects outright any participation in negotiations by an Arab from East

Jerusalem, since this would constitute a visible and open challenge to Jerusalem's final status as the "eternal" capital of Israel — a position which is in defiance of the entire international community. Excluding an East Jerusalem Palestinian from the negotiating team in the first round, which the U.S. suggests as a compromise, would further reinforce the Israeli position that East Jerusalem cannot be included under the rubric of "occupied."

At this point, the administration's priority is for the process to begin; where it leads to is secondary, if not irrelevant. The Arabs are caught in a dilemma, part of which is of their own making. Israel knows this and seeks to take full advantage of it.

To begin with, several im-

portant Arab states have stated

their willingness to suspend

their economic boycott mea-

sures against Israel in return

for an Israeli freeze on settle-

ments. However, while the

boycott is a legal instrument of

a state of belligerency, the

planting of settlements in the

occupied territories is a clear

violation of the Geneva Con-

vention and of international law.

Thus, to equate a legal practice

with an illegal practice

puts the Arabs at a clear nego-

tiating disadvantage. Resolu-

tion 242 outlines a sequence

where withdrawal is followed

by a cessation of the state of

belligerency, including the

Baker mission may be running into a Middle East deadlock

By Jonathan Wright

Reuter

NICOSIA — When U.S. Secretary of State James Baker flew to Israel with a proposal to hold a Middle East peace conference in October, it looked like he was about to reap the harvest from months of diplomatic labour.

When he flew out of Jordan two days later, the deadlock over Palestinian representation looked like a carbon copy of the impasse which in early 1990 thwarted Baker's first attempt to solve the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Mr. Baker and his team have been looking on the bright side of this trip, bis sixth to the Middle East since the end of the Gulf war in February.

They say that winning Syrian agreement to take part in the peace conference, the change that provided the impetus for the trip, is a major achievement for U.S. policy.

Mr. Baker crowned that on Thursday, they say, when Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir gave a qualified "yes" to peace talks — provided the Palestinian delegation meets Israeli condi-

tions. "I think that the prospects of Arab-Israeli peace discussions are no longer simply a dream ... We have made tremendous progress, I think, in moving toward an active and viable peace process," Mr. Baker told reporters at Mr. Shamir's office.

Their optimism seemed to be holding up at the weekend, when Mr. Baker arrived in Rabat to tap Morocco's contacts with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), effectively to persuade the PLO to give Israel a say in choosing Palestinian delegates.

"The two toughest nuts to crack were Syria and Israel," said a senior U.S. official with the secretary of state. "My instinct is that they (the Palestinians) will find a way to participate."

But Mr. Baker's team has given no indication it has contained any magic formula to bridge the gap between Israel and Palestinian ideas on how the Palestinians should be represented.

Statements by Israel and the Palestinians suggest that rather than make concessions, their priority is to ensure they do not take the blame if the U.S. initiative fails.

Israel rejects any PLO role and any Palestinian delegates from Arab East Jerusalem.

The PLO, just as it did in early

1990, has conceded that the dele-

gates need not be PLO officials. But it reserves the right to name them and it insists that East Jerusalem, occupied in the Middle East war of 1967 and later annexed by Israel, should be treated in the same way as the occupied West Bank, Gaza Strip and Golan Heights.

Sovereignty over East Jerusalem, claimed by Israel and disputed by most of the rest of the world, would also be off the agenda, she added.

Palestinians outside the PLO are unlikely to take part in the conference without PLO approval. Even if they did, few Palestinians would accept them as their representatives.

So what began as a dramatic bid by Mr. Baker to twist Israel's arm into matching Syria's acceptance has degenerated into a complex mediation task with no early end in sight.

Statements by Israel and the Palestinians suggest that rather than make concessions, their priority is to ensure they do not take the blame if the U.S. initiative fails.

Hanan Ashrawi, a member of the Palestinian team that met Mr. Baker on Friday, said of Mr. Shamir's agreement to take part in peace talks, "I don't see what all the fuss is about. The 'yes' with conditions is a 'no' in fact."

He will be hard pressed to revive the momentum by the time he comes back, possibly in early September.

promise Mr. Baker proposed was that the Palestinians choose delegates they knew Israel would accept, without renouncing their right to choose others.

Sovereignty over East Jerusalem, claimed by Israel and disputed by most of the rest of the world, would also be off the agenda, she added.

A senior U.S. official said on Thursday Mr. Baker had tried to break the deadlock by promising to give Israel and the Arab states written assurances on aspects of the conference.

Some assurances would involve Palestinian representation and they did not include a blanket veto for the Jewish state, he added without giving other details.

Mr. Baker, by instructing State Department experts to visit the Middle East next week to work on the Palestinian issue, has already indicated he no longer expects to tie up the conference arrangements before his long summer holiday.

He will be hard pressed to revive the momentum by the time he comes back, possibly in early September.

To invest in Jordan takes a great deal of courage and at times wars, nationalisation of industries, coups d'etat, dictatorships, why all Middle Easterners keep their money abroad. It takes major effort to convince foreigners to invest in the Middle East and similar effort to convince us.

We have a request to all the deputies who voted for the exclusion of foreign capital from Jordan to act with a sense of national responsibility to their constituents in the long run and not to be carried away by the emotions of the aftermath of the Gulf war.

Wa'ad K. Dajani

Amman

By Dr. Abdalla Mai

King hopes hurdles could be overcome

(Continued from page 1)

As I really would not rather get into details, but I would like only to discuss here that Jerusalem, as far as we are concerned, the Arab part of Jerusalem, the occupied territory, equal to all other territories occupied on 5 June 1967. But beyond that in a context of peace, Jerusalem must become the essence of peace, the meaning of peace between the followers of the three monotheistic religions and the rights of all have to be preserved there. So I think that there is a feeling that we should not get into public debate too much, and there should be quiet, active diplomacy and once the process starts, then probably many things that look impossible at this moment may be possible later when people realize what an opportunity there is for all of them and for the generations to come.

Q: Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has been very adamant that there will be no (return) of

occupied territories in all of this. Did you see though that perhaps out of this conference there will indeed be an agreement on land for peace?

A: I believe that these are very essential elements; land for peace, 242 speaks of the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war, the rights of Palestinians on their legitimate soil and the security for all and a comprehensive approach to the problem, a comprehensive peace for all, not even in that context, in the countries surrounding Israel, but the whole region.

Q: What you feel from your perspective is essential that you can come out of that conference with?

A: Peace and peace and peace that can be accepted by generations to come and protected and a chance and opportunity for all to live in an atmosphere that has not been possible all of these years. And a gift for all generations to come.

Q: Where do you think it is going to be held?

A: I honestly do not know. That is still a subject of debate, maybe somewhere not too far away so that we can keep in touch with what is happening in the conference in terms of the delegations.

Arafat appeals to Europe

(Continued from page 1)

obstacle that will be big enough that will prevent a Palestinian from attending," Bassam Abu Sharif told a news conference.

But WAFIA quoted an unidentified PLO spokesman as saying Monday that Mr. Abu Sharif was stating only his personal views. Mr. Abu Sharif in the past has made moderate statements that were later knocked down by PLO officials.

Mr. Arafat has taken a harder stance, saying on Algerian Radio that the Palestinian struggle would continue until the Palestinian flag flies over Arab East Jerusalem.

Analysts say Mr. Arafat is in a difficult position, trying to rally both hardline and moderate support while balancing one of the PLO's central tenets: against the possibility of a negotiated peace.

"We have said 'yes' to a peace conference and we do not pose conditions... but, we are not bending to Israeli conditions," Mr. Arafat was quoted as saying by Reuters.

Commenting on Mr. Baker's trip to the Middle East and North Africa, Mr. Arafat said:

"The agreement (of Mr. Baker) to the non-representation of Jerusalem and the exclusion of this question from the agenda signifies that he is officially and practically in agreement with the Israeli plan."

"If the United States has ceded to pressure from Israel and the Jewish lobby, nothing obliges us to do the same," Mr. Arafat said.

"It is true that Mr. Baker spoke of assurance for all the parties, but in none of his meetings has he alluded... to the PLO which is the essential party in peace," Mr. Arafat said.

He also questioned Mr. Baker's assurances given in Tunis that the U.S. position on the Arab-Israeli conflict would not change.

Mr. Arafat said the United States wanted to bring the Arab countries to negotiations with Israeli pre-conditions.

"This would be capitulation," he said.

Mr. Arafat said: "Consultations now being held with our brothers in Tunisia, Morocco and Algeria to study the results of Janice Baker's tour have not yet ended."

But he reiterated he would not give way over Jerusalem.

"It is (Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak) Shamir who, in declaring that Jerusalem is excluded from negotiations, has made this an obstacle (to peace talks) and not us," he said.

Syria rejected Tuesday Israel's demand to approve Palestinian delegations to the peace conference and said the Arabs have shown enough flexibility to prove they were serious about peace.

The conditions set by Israel in the face of the peace process are rejected in form and content," Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa told a

meeting of foreign ministers from the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) in Istanbul.

Palestinian representation at the peace conference is a matter that concerns the Palestinian people alone. Israel has no right to interfere in naming member of the Palestinian delegation or the towns and areas they come from," he added.

"The Arab side's acceptance... of U.S. resolutions is in itself an expression of a great Arab flexibility that could not have been possible without Arab keenness to spare the people of the region more destruction, bloodshed and war," he added.

He said Syria thought Palestinian delegates could be chosen either by the PLO or through free elections under international supervision in the occupied territories.

Mr. Sharaa said Arab agreement to take part in a conference based on

U.N. resolutions was a major concession which showed they were seriously looking for peace.

"These resolutions were issued as a compromise between the permanent members of the Security Council, who are mostly closer to Israel than the Arabs," he said.

"The Arab side's acceptance... of U.S. resolutions is in itself an expression of a great Arab flexibility that could not have been possible without Arab keenness to spare the people of the region more destruction, bloodshed and war," he added.

He also attacked Jewish immigration to Israel, saying Jews were being brought to "land where their fathers and ancestors did not live at any period in history."

Iraq says it can make plutonium

(Continued from page 1)

Security Council members said Monday that the new disclosures are unlikely to soften their resolve to maintain the trade embargo they imposed on Iraq when it invaded Kuwait a year ago.

Under the U.N. ceasefire resolution that ended the Gulf war, Iraq agreed to cooperate in the disclosure and destruction of its long-range ballistic missiles as well as its chemical, biological and nuclear weapons capabilities.

"These are disclosures in a long, long series of failings and cheating by the government of Iraq," said British Ambassador David Hannay. "The vast majority of the council have taken the view that there is no justification for changes in the sanctions regime."

U.N. officials in Baghdad said that Iraq had admitted to engaging in secret germ-warfare research for four years. But Iraq officials said the programme was for defensive military use and was abandoned after the invasion of Kuwait in August 1990.

The head of the team, David Kelly of Britain, said Iraq notified him of

the germ warfare programme within hours of his arrival and was cooperating with his inspectors.

"We have made progress today," he told reporters after his inspectors visited the site of the experiment at Salman Pak, 30 kilometers south of Baghdad.

Mr. Kelly described his mission as a hunt for "biological weapons and research which leads to the production of biological weapons and the ingredients of them" but he refused to say whether he had found evidence of weapons.

He said he knew of the existence of the site before he arrived in Iraq. The team has so far only examined the one site, but Mr. Kelly said he intended to visit others.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman, quoted by Iraq's newspapers earlier, said the Iraqi authorities had identified the research site to the team on the evening of its arrival.

"The Iraqi side has informed the inspection team that there is a laboratory for biological research for military purposes within a general research establishment," the spokesman told Thawra.

The head of the team, David Kelly of Britain, said Iraq notified him of

Baker ready to make new shuttle

(Continued from page 1)

"The secretary-general has been following with great interest the visit of U.S. Secretary of State Baker to the Middle East and North Africa," a statement read by a U.N. spokeswoman.

The secretary-general is encouraged by developments over the weekend which indicate that progress is being made and that the prospects for launching a negotiating process have been significantly exchanged."

Mr. Baker told Israel's Mondat that he made progress towards promoting peace talks in the three Maghreb countries.

"He felt he had done well," Yossi Ben Aharon, senior adviser to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, told Reuters.

Before returning to Washington Mr. Baker unexpectedly said at a news conference in Algiers that Libya, one Maghreb country he did not visit, could also join the Middle East conference.

The United States considers Libya a sponsor of "state terrorism" and has not had diplomatic ties for at least a decade.

Engaged now in what appears to be the endgame of the U.S. initiative to organize a conference, Mr. Baker may have felt compelled in the Maghreb, an area of some intense anti-American feelings, not to exclude anyone from the peace process.

"We seek support for peace from

whatever quarter, and we seek support for this proposal of ours from every quarter," Mr. Baker said in Algiers.

He said the United States would be "very pleased" if the North African Arab states sent an observer to the peace talks the United States and the Soviet Union intend to hold in October.

Mr. Ibrahim said Algeria would ask the Arab Maghreb Union to call a foreign ministers meeting on the U.S. peace efforts and would also discuss them with the Palestinians.

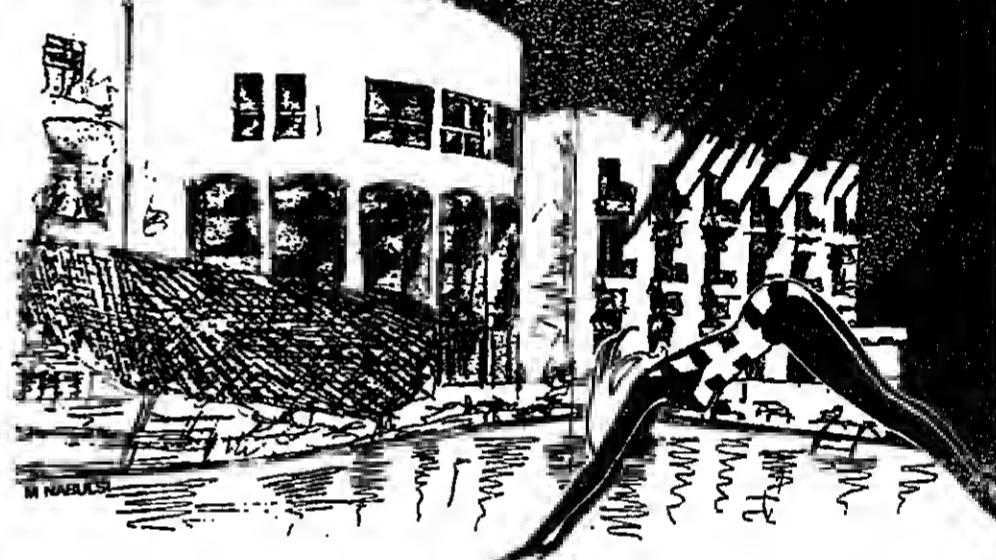
Bethlehem Mayor Elias Freij met Mr. Baker Tuesday and denounced the foundation of a new Israeli settlement in the occupied West Bank, but the United States was silent on the development.

Mr. Freij met Mr. Baker for half an hour. Contrary to the normal procedure, photographers were not invited to take pictures of the two as they began their meeting and reporters were also kept away.

Mr. Freij said after the meeting that Israel's determination to build new Jewish settlements in the West Bank was the greatest single obstacle to peace.

But the State Department had no comment on the establishment of another new outpost in the West Bank south of the town of Hebron.

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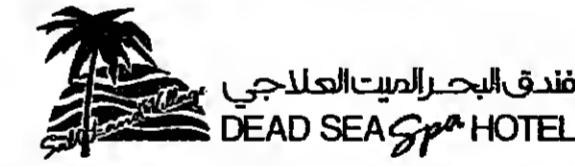
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Bubka sets new record

MALMO, Sweden (Agencies) — After soaring to yet another world record, Sergei Bubka lifted his taste buds.

"Please, give me a beer," he asked one official after breaking his own pole vault record by one-half inch, clearing 6.10 metres at the Idag Galan track meet.

"How about champagne?" said one onlooker.

Bubka agreed. This was a special occasion.

"Maybe I should have champagne after all," he said.

The 28-year-old Ukrainian's 28th world mark — 15 indoors and 13 outdoors — means he's one of the greatest record-breakers in track and field history.

But coming into the meet, Bubka's chances didn't look bright. He was tired after competing in Monaco Saturday and he felt pain in his left leg while warming up.

"It was so difficult jumping early in tonight's competition. The wind was changing all the time and I had to wait for the right moment," said Bubka, who made is first two heights — at 5.70 (18-8 1/4) and 5.85 (19-2 1/4) — on his second attempts.

"I only planned to jump once at 6.10, but the fans motivated me. They gave me power. I felt very fast and very strong."

Most of the 24,657 fans, a record turnout for this meet,

were still in the stadium when Bubka made the record on his third and final attempt.

"The atmosphere was great. The fans helped me," said Bubka.

Bubka, whose world indoor record is 6.12 metres, set March 23 in France, said breaking the 20-foot barrier both indoors and outdoors made him very happy.

"It was my goal this season to jump 6.10 outdoors," he said. "And I also got another record tonight. This was my eighth record, indoors and outdoors, this year. In 1984, I set seven world records."

Bubka's next meet is the Weltklasse in Zurich, Switzerland, Wednesday. Then we will go back to the Soviet Union and prepare for the World Championships in Tokyo later this month.

"I will not jump after Zurich. I'm going to spend a week with the Soviet team in Vladivostok before Tokyo," he said.

Leroy Burrell, the world-record holder in the men's 100 metres, beat his Santa Monica teammate Carl Lewis for the second time this year in the "king of sprints" race.

"I started badly today and it was a scrappy race," said Lewis, adding that he hoped the 100 metres at the final Grand Prix of the season in Zurich Wednesday would inspire the confidence-boosting effort he needed.

Lewis, who had a terrible start out of the blocks, clocked 10.13 after closing well.

Dennis Mitchell made it an American 1-2-3 finish in 10.14 seconds. Linford Christie of Britain, a silver medalist behind Lewis in the 1988 Olympics and the European champion and record holder, was fourth in 10.18.

It was one of the strongest 100-metre fields since the Seoul Olympics, but the race was marred by two false starts. The first one was called on Burrell.

"It's a good feeling. All the best guys in the world were here and everybody wanted to win."

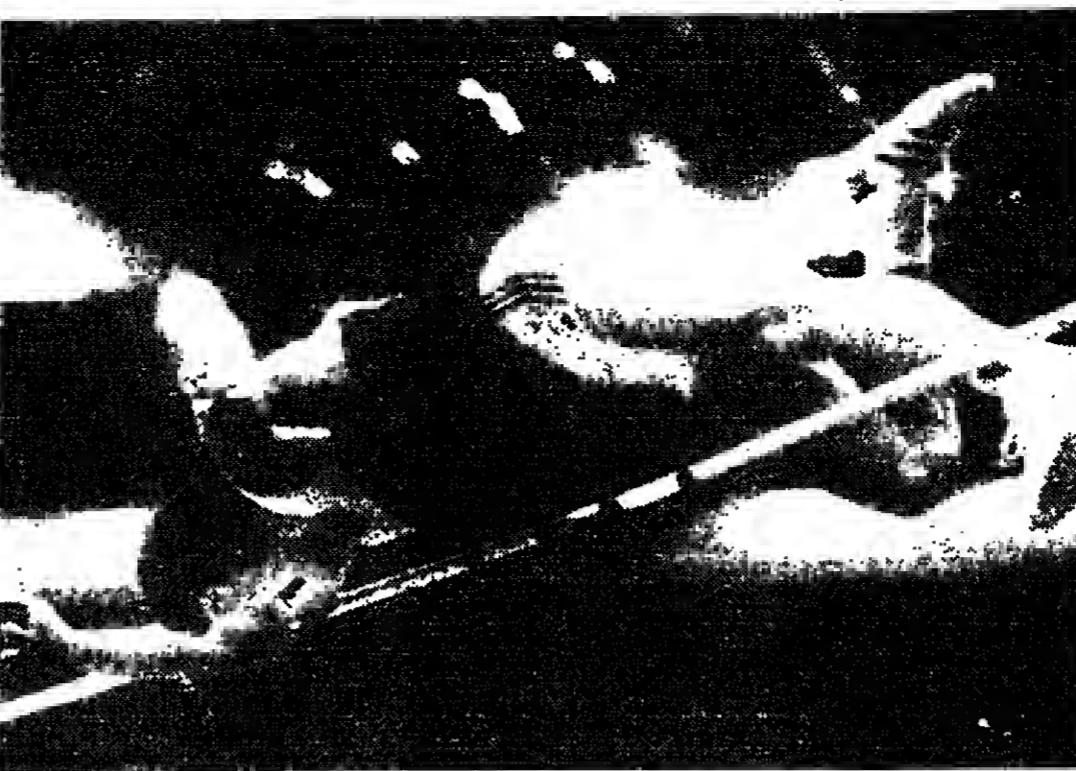
Burrell and Lewis, reluctant to show their cards before it really counts, have avoided racing each other this season.

"It was an important victory. But I've got to remember that a lot can happen between now and Tokyo, every race is new," Burrell said.

"I will not jump after Zurich. I'm going to spend a week with the Soviet team in Vladivostok before Tokyo," he said.

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Soviet pole vaulter, Sergei Bubka, clears the bar setting a new world record

Jarryd surprises Svensson at ATP Championships in Cincinnati

CINCINNATI, Ohio (R) — Anders Jarryd surprised 16th-seeded fellow Swede Jonas Svensson by refusing to fold on his way to a 6-7, 5-6, 6-4 first-round victory at the \$1.3 million ATP Championships.

"I think he was a little bit surprised I kept fighting all the time," Jarryd said. "I think maybe he was waiting for me to fall apart, but I didn't do it."

The 31st-ranked Jarryd, a former top-five player who plummeted to 178 in the world last year, said his ability to rebound and win a tough three-setter provided a much needed confidence boost.

"I was very disappointed and was thinking for a while I might

quit," said Jarryd, who has been plagued by shoulder and knee injuries. "But then I started working and I decided to give it another try."

Aaron Krickstein provided the day's other upset when he beat 15th-seeded fellow American Richey Reneberg 7-6, 3-6, 7-6.

The ATP Championships, a hardcourt tune-up for the U.S. Open, features seven of the world's top 10 players.

The top eight seeds, including top-ranked Australian Open champion Boris Becker, Stefan Edberg, Ivan Lendl, French Open champion Jim Courier, Andre Agassi and U.S. Open champion Pete Sampras, all received first round byes.

Two seeded players advanced Monday. Switzerland's Jakob Hlasek, seeded 11th, crushed American Jimmy Arias 6-1, 6-1 and 10th-seeded Soviet Andrei Cherkasov ousted Australian Todd Woodbridge 7-6, 6-1.

Unfortunately for Reneberg, Krickstein is one of the few players who is comfortable in tiebreak situations and he showed it Monday.

Krickstein came back from 2-4 down in the third set tiebreak to run off the last five points of the match.

"Seldom do I lose a close match," Krickstein said. "When I'm in a tight match, I'm the aggressor."

2 seeds fall in Canadian Open

TORONTO (R) — Little-known American Jessica Emmons and Soviet Larisa Savchenko provided first round upsets Monday, the opening day of the \$500,000 Canadian Open Women's Tennis Tournament.

German veteran Claudia Kohde-Kilsch, seeded 15th, fell to Savchenko 4-6, 6-4, 7-6, while Emmons, ranked 159th in the world, claimed a 1-6, 6-2, 6-3 win over 14th-seeded Italian Katia Piccolini.

Kohde-Kilsch was serving for the match at 5-4 of the third set, but she was broken at 15 by Savchenko, who was up 5-1 in the second set.

Emmons broke the 37th-ranked Italian four times in the middle set and twice more in the decider, while losing her serve just once in that span.

The top eight seeds, including world number three Gabriela Sabatini and 15-year-old sensation Jennifer Capriati, received first round byes.

Capriati, who scored one of the biggest wins of her career when she upset Monica Seles in the

Mazda Classic final Sunday, was not expected to see action until Wednesday.

Four seeds advanced, including 10th-seeded Peruvian Laura Gildeimester, who needed three tough sets and more than two hours to oust American Ann Henrickson 7-5, 5-7, 7-4.

"It was such a terrible match for me," Gildeimester said. "I should have won the match in two sets. I was up 5-1 in the second set."

Novacek broke the 37th-ranked Italian four times in the middle set and twice more in the decider, while losing her serve just once in that span.

The top eight seeds, including world number three Gabriela Sabatini and 15-year-old sensation Jennifer Capriati, received first round byes.

Capriati, who scored one of the biggest wins of her career when she upset Monica Seles in the

Eleventh seed Helen Kelesi also survived a sloppy performance to beat fellow Canadian Melanie Bernard 6-3, 4-6, 6-3 and 13th-seeded American Marianne Werdel edged compatriot Audra Keller 6-2, 6-7, 7-6. Regina Radichrova of Czechoslovakia, seeded 16th, topped German Eva Pfaff 6-2, 7-5.

Steffi Graf, who regained her number one ranking when Seles lost to Capriati Sunday, was nursing a shoulder injury and withdrew from the Toronto event.

Novacek wins ATP Cup

KITZBUEHEL, Austria (AP) — No. 3 seed Karel Novacek overcame Magnus Gustafsson, 7-6 (7-2), 6-2 to win the final of the \$375,000 ATP Philips Head Cup.

Novacek, playing his fifth tournament in this Alpine resort, fought hard to overcome the fourth seeded Swede who had beaten him in their two previous encounters.

This time Novacek played

more confidently, even though he two hour-36 minute match was closely contested until the final set.

"After winning the two tie breaks it was only a question of time," he said. "I'm very glad I won this tournament. I fought for every ball."

Gustafsson, No. 10 in the ATP world rankings, was fighting an arm injury which needed attention in the second set.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY AUGUST 7, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The light dawns today on how to deal with a deception that has put into motion a course of action that is blocking you from receiving answers and information that you have been seeking.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You now can get out in the world and do the things that make your life much more pleasant and delightful and can make allies more helpful.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Whatever you would like to do that requires a more practical approach than usual is excellent today but later avoid getting into a disagreement.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21)

TAURUS: (January 22 to December 21) Coming to a new arrangement with partners is excellent now as they and you have an open mind and are able to figure out ways to get along.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Your own assumptions can be achieved by some new methods that show your ability to come up with some interesting new angles and ways to get ahead.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Whatever makes you more aware of that way for you to express your special aptitude in the right things for you to do. To put plans in motion.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) This is your time to do whatever will get you in right with members of your own household. Think out what they like and get for them without.

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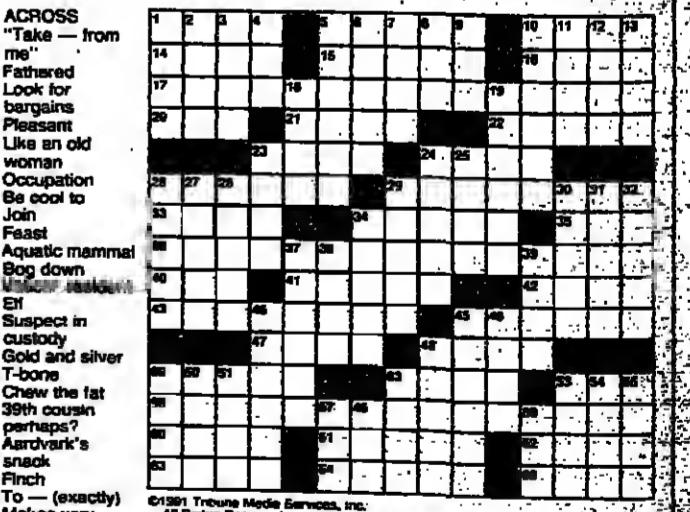
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise word, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: THERE

Yesterday's Jumble: DRAWL BIRTH TRUISM LOTION
Answer: How did he know his wife was a natural blonde? IT SAID SO ON THE BOTTLE

THE Daily Crossword

by Harold B. Counts



Financial Markets in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York		Tokyo	
	Date: 6/8/1991	Close	Date: 6/8/1991	Close
Sterling Pound*	1.7108	1.7115		
Deutsche Mark	1.7175	1.7153		
Swiss Franc	1.4965	1.4955		
French Franc	5.8435	5.8390**		
Japanese Yen	136.65	136.65		
European Currency Unit	1.1945	1.1949**		

USD Per STG

** European Opening (6:30 a.m. GMT)

Eurocurrency Interest Rates Date: 6/8/1991

Currency	Date: 6/8/1991			
	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.87	5.75	6.00	6.25
Sterling Pound	10.87	10.75	10.62	10.56
Deutsche Mark	9.00	9.12	9.37	9.43
Swiss Franc	7.62	7.68	7.75	7.62
French Franc	9.43	9.43	9.62	9.56
Japanese Yen	7.37	7.40	7.12	6.87
European Currency Unit	9.62	9.81	9.95	10.00

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Precious Metals Date: 6/8/1991

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm*	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
	Gold	357.50	6.95	Silver	3.95

* 21 Karat

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 6/8/1991

Currency	Bid		Offer		
	U.S. Dollar	.686	.688	Sterling Pound	1.1737
Deutsche Mark	.3996		.4016		
Swiss Franc	.4588		.4611		
French Franc	.1175		.1181		
Japanese Yen*	.5011		.5036		
Dutch Guilder	.3545		.3563		
Swedish Krona	.1100		.1106		
Italian Lira*	.0534		.0537		
Belgian Franc	.01934		.01944		

* Per 100

Other Currencies Date: 6/8/1991

Currency	Bid		Offer		
	Bahraini Dinar	1.7830	1.7920	Lebanese Lira*	.0750
Saudi Riyal	.1827		.1833		
Kuwaiti Dinar	-		-		
Qatari Riyal	.1859		.1865		
Egyptian Pound	.2000		.2200		
Oman Riyal	1.7450		1.7550		
UAE Dirham	.1859		.1865		
Greek Drachma*	.3400		.3600		
Cypriot Pound	1.4300		1.4600		

* Per 100

CADM Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	4/8/1991	Close	5/8/1991	Close
All-Share	109.47	109.91		
Banking Sector	104.27	104.49		
Insurance Sector	119.32	119.24		
Industry Sector	114.24	115.21		
Services Sector	127.88	127.36		

December 31, 1990 = 100

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One Sterling	1.7155/65	U.S. dollar	1.1481/86	Canadian dollar
	1.7085/95	Deutschmarks	1.9270/80	Dutch guilders
	1.4902/09	Swiss francs	35.18/22	Belgian francs
	5.8120/70	French francs	1279/1280	Italian lire
	136.35/45	Japanese yen	6.2025/75	Swedish crowns
	6.6750/6800	Norwegian crowns	6.6175/25	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	357.10/357.60	U.S. dollars		

1.1481/86

1.9270/80

35.18/22

1279/1280

6.2025/75

6.6750/6800

6.6175/25

357.10/357.60

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

By Reuters

TOKYO — Financial scandals, weaker futures and higher money market rates pushed the 225-share Nikkei average down 368.29 points to 23,464.96 in very thin trade.

FRANKFURT — German shares ended a listless, summer-slow session weaker on a lack of fresh trading factors. The 30-share Dax Index ended down 10.13 points to 1,611.90.

ZURICH — Swiss shares closed easier but above the day's low in subdued trading as signs that inflation was unlikely to ease. The All-Share SPI Index eased 4.2 points to 1,117.0.

PARIS — Share prices ended easier in continuing thin trade, but a big sell-off in Saint-Gobain shares lifted turnover above Monday's three-year low. The CAC-40 index lost 2.69 points to 1,759.53 on trade of 1.3 million francs.

LONDON — Stocks finished easier and only a shade off their day's low after lacklustre trading, weighed down by uncertainty about the length of the recession. The Financial Times-Stock Exchange Index lost 12.1 points to 2,573.3.

NEW YORK — U.S. blue chips posted gains at midday, after erasing a mild loss in late morning on news that the Federal Reserve signalled a credit ease. The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose about 10 points to 2,999.

Returnees from Iraq, Kuwait to receive \$2,500 compensation

GENEVA (R) — Workers who had to leave Kuwait or Iraq because of the Gulf crisis will be eligible for a minimum compensation payment from Iraq of \$2,500, a Belgian diplomat told a news conference Monday.

Belgian Ambassador Philippe Berg, chairman of the U.N. Compensation Commission, said the council had decided to give priority to dealing with small claims, particularly from labourers who lost everything.

The commission will give expedited priority consideration to claims for (overall) losses up to \$100,000 per person," the document stated. Claims can be submitted for anything above \$100,000 at a later time.

Only a minimum amount of evidence of loss will be required, and even less proof for claims under \$20,000.

Claimants only have to document the fact and date of their departure. Higher claims could be submitted with proof but not if a claim for the 2,500 had already been submitted.

A local source said the lump-sum measure was an effort to reduce the tremendous paperwork involved in handling claims for potentially hundreds of thousands of people and to alleviate the problems of those who were not able to get proof of losses.

The council wanted to clear the way for these workers to get early reimbursement for their losses.

The forms for making claims will not be available for some time. The commission's newly formed secretariat has to draw up easily understandable forms which the governing council will have to approve.

Mr. Berg said it was not clear when these would be available.

Governments will then have to distribute and collect the forms and apply for the money on behalf of their citizens and, if they choose, their residents.

sum measure was an effort to reduce the tremendous paperwork involved in handling claims for potentially hundreds of thousands of people and to alleviate the problems of those who were not able to get proof of losses.

In the headlong rush to escape, many workers had to leave everything, including money in the bank and precious belongings such as radios that they had scrouped to buy.

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Yugoslav fragile truce holds

Opposition activist gunned down in Belgrade

BELGRADE (R) — Yugoslavia's warring Serb and Croat forces kept a fragile ceasefire after weeks of violence while the European Community (EC) pondered a new diplomatic move to avert civil war.

Mortar fire was reported near the Croatian town of Petrinja Monday. But no new casualties were reported to add to the toll of some 300 killed in a month of sectarian violence.

Three EC foreign ministers returned home Sunday acknowledging failure of their latest mission to bring peace to the multi-ethnic Balkan federation.

The EC's 12 foreign ministers met in the Hague Tuesday to consider a new strategy to handle the Yugoslav crisis — possibly involving economic sanctions against the Republic of Serbia.

Serbia, Yugoslavia's biggest republic, has been widely blamed for torpedoing the EC mission.

But a truce ordered by the Yugoslav presidency held Monday although no effort was being made to enforce it.

Serbian guerrillas who seized

control of the Krajina region of southern Croatia last August and set up their own government said Monday they would obey the ceasefire.

The region is already relatively quiet as its residents have turned it into a virtual fortress and Croatian patrols do not dare venture into the area.

But guerrillas say the fighting is far from over and predominantly Serbian-populated areas of Croatia would never recognise rule from Zagreb again.

Journalists travelling in Slavonia region in eastern Croatia — scene of the worst fighting — were told by guerrilla commanders that remaining towns in the area would soon be taken by Serb fighters.

One leader said that the town of Vukovar, on the banks of the Danube, was one possible target as it would lengthen a strip of territory already controlled by the Serbs along the river.

Some Serbs said that a siege of the area's main city, Osijek, was also possible.

Croatian and European leaders

blamed Serbia and its allies for the failure of the EC mission because they failed to attend a joint meeting of EC ministers and the collective presidency to agree ceasefire terms and monitoring by EC observers.

And Germany suggested economic sanctions against Serbia could be in the offing.

"If the Serbian leadership does not compromise, the EC will have to draw conclusions," Norbert Schaefer, a spokesman for German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, said. "These could include economic sanctions."

Mr. Schaefer said Serbia was violating European conventions by seeking to redraw Yugoslavia's internal boundaries by force, taking control of Croatian territory controlled by Serbs.

"If Serbia does not stop this and continues to reject a ceasefire, the EC will also have to seriously consider recognising Slovenia and Croatia," he added.

Meanwhile a Serbian opposition figure Monday accused top officials in the republic of orga-

nising the murder of a paramilitary activist, widening a split in Serbian nationalist ranks as open war loomed with Croatia.

Vuk Draskovic, charismatic head of the Serbian Renewal Movement (SPO), said the killing in Belgrade of the Serbian National Guardsman Sunday night was "a political murder with the state behind it, including the very top officials."

His charges, made at a tense news conference in Belgrade, were clearly levelled at officials loyal to Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, Mr. Draskovic's arch-rival.

Mr. Draskovic, a straggly-haired, bearded nationalist who led big anti-Communist demonstrations in Belgrade last March, pledged to organise even bigger street protests next October if authorities did not identify the killers.

Branislav Matic-Beli, a member of the Serbian National Guard to which the SPO has given its blessing, was riddled with automatic bullets outside his home by two gunmen.

India says Afghans helping Kashmiri militants

SRINAGAR, India (R) — Indian security forces are searching for Afghan Mujahideen they believe have entered Indian-ruled Kashmir to help Muslim militants there, senior officials said Tuesday.

The officials, who asked not to be identified, said they had reliable reports that Afghan Mujahideen, veterans of the decade-old war against the Moscow-backed government in Kabul, had taken part in recent militant operations.

Spokesmen for leading Kashmiri militant groups denied Afghan involvement in the insurgency which police say has resulted in some 3,600 deaths since it erupted in January 1990.

But witnesses in Srinagar, summer capital of Indian-ruled Kashmir, and other major towns of the Kashmir Valley said security forces were stopping and questioning anyone resembling an Afghan.

Life in Kashmir Valley towns came to a virtual standstill Tuesday in response to a general strike called by the Jamiat and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) to mark the first anniversary of the arrest of its military commander.

Yaseen Malik, 26, was caught along with other senior JKLF men in a raid on a house on the outskirts of Srinagar. He has been detained without trial under anti-terror laws ever since.

All shops were closed and only security force vehicles were seen on the roads of Srinagar.

The JKLF is the leading militant group fighting for a reunited, independent and secular Kashmir. Other fundamentalist groups are fighting for a merger with Pakistan, which rules one-third of the region.

India accuses Islamabad of arming, training and guiding the Kashmiri rebels. Pakistan denies the charge, saying it gives only moral and diplomatic support.

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The JKLF has been complaining for months that Pakistan is helping only the fundamentalists, especially the Hezul-Ul-Mujahideen, the leading fundamentalist group.

Bitterness between the two groups erupted into gunfights on the streets of Srinagar in April and spokesmen said there were more clashes and some kidnappings last week.

Brazil to keep sanctions

Mandela said that Brazil would maintain diplomatic and commercial sanctions against South Africa to protest against its racist policies.

Mandela predicts victory in battle against racism

BRASILIA (R) — Anti-apartheid leader Nelson Mandela Monday predicted "final victory" in his lifelong battle against racism in South Africa as he prepared to return home after a gruelling Latin American and Caribbean tour.

"I am going back full of hope and convinced of final victory," said Mr. Mandela, 73, after receiving one of Brazil's highest honours from President Fernando Collor de Mello.

Mr. Mandela, president of the African National Congress (ANC), was in the capital, Brasilia, on the penultimate day of a six-day visit to Brazil. He has also visited Cuba, Jamaica, Venezuela and Mexico.

Mr. Collor de Mello hailed Mr. Mandela as "one of the highest expressions of human courage and perseverance of our time" before presenting him with the Order of Rio Branco, normally reserved for heads of state.

In an improvised speech after meeting Mr. Collor de Mello, Mr. Mandela described Brazil as a great ally in the cause against racism. "The voice of the Brazilian people always encouraged us in our fight against apartheid, crossing even the prison walls," he said in a reference to the 27 years he spent in South African jails. Mr. Mandela also spoke of wider aims.

"We are fighting for justice and human dignity not just in our country but in the whole world," he said. Mr. Collor de Mello in turn pledged Brazil's "permanent and genuine" solidarity with the people of South Africa.

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Cuba lifts restrictions on foreign travel

HAVANA (R) — Cuba has announced it was lifting restrictions on travel abroad to allow anyone aged 20 and over to leave and visit other countries, provided the host nation gave them a visa.

The announcement, made shortly after the start of the Pan-American Games in Havana was a major relaxation by the Communist government of existing travel restrictions under which it had been limited to women aged 30 and over and men aged 35 and over.

The move, which was announced on Cuba's official news agency Prensa Latina, followed earlier lowering of the age limit over the last 12 months.

A Cuban official told Reuters the measure was effective immediately and would be open to all those who could have their air fares paid for in foreign currency by family members living abroad or who were invited by foreign governments or organisations.

He denied the move was related to an announcement by the

U.S. State Department late last month that it was temporarily suspending acceptance of new applications for visitor's visas from Cubans to clear a backlog of 28,000 temporary visa applications.

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